

MEMPHIS APPEAL

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 8, 1873

DEATH OF CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE.

The first intellect of our day, the foremost thinker, the prophetic statesman, the incorruptible judge, the honest, over-earnest philanthropist, the incomparable financier, Chief Justice Chase, died yesterday. None were surprised by the announcement of his death. He was growing old, his life was full of honors, and when he died he filled the place of which he was worthy, the place which he had won by his wisdom, his honesty and well, and with a degree of ability never surpassed even by Jay, or Marshall, or Taney. It is possible that his judgment, almost infallible, may have been deflected by his normally unimpaired courage; but it never has been alleged that Chief Justice Chase forgot the part of a judge or statesman, when a governor chief justice, or when an American senator. He was too great, at all times, to be little on any occasion, and when the occasion was great, and intellectual giants appeared in the arena in which he moved, when he sat the arbiter of individual rights, or of those of States, it was wholly impossible for him to be anything but great. He looked in his magnificent face and contemplative his majestic form, without assuming to his pre-eminence greatness. His head and brow were massive, his form and presence, before and behind, were most impressive. His superiority to ordinary mortals was asserted by the God that made him, in the very physical shape that became the embodiment of intellectual greatness. When we first saw Mr. Chase he was a member of the United States Senate. Clay, Calhoun and Webster had just vacated their seats for higher places, we heard a preacher say, in the senate chamber of heaven. Mr. Chase remained, and as Governor Jones, then of the senate, from this State, was accustomed to assert, "without a peer." He stood, the physical and intellectual man, a head and shoulders above his fellows.

So familiar are leading incidents in the history of Mr. Chase that it is almost needless to reproduce them. He was born in 1793 in New Hampshire. At the age of twelve he was at school in Ohio, a State upon which his fame has reflected greater honor than that of any other representative citizen. He was graduated at Dartmouth in 1813, and two years later was a successful lawyer in Washington. In 1850 he was at the bar in Cincinnati, and soon became famous especially because of his discussion of the fugitive slave laws. He certainly satisfied himself thus early in life that African slavery, as guarded by American law, was indefensible and he became a vocal and uncompromising Republican, or quasi Abolitionist. In all other leading issues that distinguished parties he was a Democrat. His theory of American constitutional law rendered the trial of Mr. Jefferson Davis unnecessary, and he was founder, and thinker of the original Free Press party, he was in 1849 elected United States senator, receiving every Democratic vote of the Ohio legislature. He opposed the Kansas-Nebraska bill of 1854, and compromise measures of 1850. He was elected governor of Ohio in 1855, and was triumphantly re-elected in 1858; the wisest governor, perhaps, that ever shaped the destinies of an American State. He was a man of his own free will, and his history have furnished data for newspapers, and so familiar are leading incidents that their recital would be tiresome. He was the courtliest gentleman, even three years ago, men upon the streets of Washington, and at his own residence, where the writer has listened to his utterances, and learned to reverence the majesty of his intellect, he was almost as amiable, and more imposing, even than Jefferson Clay. However great the genius of Mr. Chase, his successor, you must chase before the country will count that his equal expounds the country's constitution and laws. The chief justice was an accomplished letter scholar, as full of political memories as of legal lore, of poetical aptitudes, and of the writer's address a popular assembly his ideas were perfectly logical and naturally concise; that the meaneast newspaper report could reproduce almost every word that fell from his lips. His genius as a statesman is illustrated in the fact that his speeches on African slavery are now pronounced prophetic and his moral heroism was demonstrated by his refusal to secure office or honor or professional emoluments by maintaining silence when, in early life, peculiar opinions of his were being questioned. In reference to this we differed toto coelo from the chief justice, but he had hardly respect ourselves if we withheld the meed of praise due his tenacity of purpose and self-sacrificing integrity.

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the city of Boston, so far as money-capital is concerned, has become the dot of America. Pretty work has been performed by prosecuting the manufacture of coarse cotton, which business properly belongs to the southern States. Boston, nearly a thousand miles away from the fields of the south, has grown opulent and populous from the manufacture of goods which could be done in Memphis. Lewiston, in Maine, contained eight thousand inhabitants in 1850. In 1872 it increased to twenty-three thousand, owing entirely to manufactures. The same increase and prosperity may be seen in nearly every northern city, occasioned by manufacturing establishments. Europe and the northern States are engaged in the manufacture of goods which the people of the south help to consume, and upon which they pay a handsome profit to the manufacturer and the merchant, in addition to the commissions, freight and other expenses incidental to the exportation of the raw material, and the importation of the manufactured goods. Heretofore the south has not given attention to this great interest which its importance demands. Before the war our section was rich and prosperous. Our people contented themselves with the acquisition of lands and slaves, and paid very little attention to the mechanic and manufacturing arts. Our thinkers and statesmen rarely discussed these enterprises as inimical to the institution of slavery, and therefore, incompatible with what they deemed the best interests of society. It then existed in the south. But now everybody feels the necessity for manufacturing of every kind. It is not true, as the slow coaches assert, that factories are the cause of the poverty of the south. It is true we are an agricultural people, but should not be exclusively such. Other sections and countries do not consider it inconsistent with their agricultural interests to prosecute by every means that they command their manufacturing resources, which give steady and self-supporting employment to hundreds of thousands of inhabitants. An immense hive of artisans and workers must be fed, and the farmer needs a remunerative market for all his products, so that the agriculturist is proportionately benefited by the encouragement and development of all the resources of his country. The completion of our railroads and the erection of manufacturing establishments, will make Memphis one of the largest of all the southern cities.

WOMEN SCHOOL-TEACHERS.

Enthusiasm is at its height in the city of Memphis. Why is it that we cannot see any more in our paper concerning the equalization of our women teachers with that of men? Have you let that anonymous letter, purporting to have come from "All Front Row," frighten you from publishing anything that may be said in regard to this subject? I am acquainted with most of the merchants in this vicinity, and do not believe they could be so easily frightened. I am not in favor of women voting, but I do believe every man, woman and child should be educated, and they should receive the same pay. I believe Mr. Mortimer is a true friend of his race, and he is able to vindicate their cause, if allowed to do so. I know while she was writing on this subject, your paper has been in circulation that ever. It was eagerly sought after by every one; even those who were opposed to the cause, and to see what she had to say. This is a reformer much needed, and Memphis would just as well take the lead as any other city. I hope you will not give up the fight, but continue to fight until the question is settled and accomplished. The people are in for it, and as a proof, the men who are opposed to the school board have been re-elected when their present term expires.

FAIR PLAY.

We publish the communication of "Colony" because we have not been frightened from publishing anything that may be said on the subject of equal pay for men and women teachers in our public schools. The perfect freedom with which the APPEAL entertains and discusses all questions affecting the welfare of any portion of this people is its best shield against the charge of "fair play" or "any one else." For the present this question of women's wages must rest. Two attempts have been made to get justice from the present school board, and both have failed. It would be useless to try again. Why, then, should we sustain a contention in our columns that is not likely to end in any good result? We must bide our time, and seek for a remedy at the ballot-box. When these come, the school board of justice visitors, all the friends of justice to women must rally and see that none are elected but those who, like us, are in favor of women being paid the same salaries as men for the same work. Fair Play! We will understand, then, that you are silent on the subject of women school-teachers' salaries, is not because we are afraid of merchants or any others, nor because we have changed our convictions, but because it is the duty of the APPEAL to be silent on the subject of the school board at the next election for school visitors.

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